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THE MULTNOMAH ANNOUNCER

Official Newsletter of Multnomah Presbyterian Church

7555 SW 45th Avenue, Portland, OR 97219

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MultPresChurch.org

HOLY WEEK SHARED WITH NEIGHBORS

In an effort to support and encourage one another and worship God together we are combining with two other Presbyterian Churches nearby for our Holy Week Services. While this practice is new to our congregation, this is a tradition that happens in communities all over the world. Our choirs will be combining, we will have speakers from all three churches participating in our services, and we will have some time to get to know one another with a couple of opportunities for meals. It's a great chance to worship with our neighbors and experience how big the family of God is.

On **Palm Sunday** we will be at St. Andrews Presbyterian for worship at 10am. (*There **will not** be worship at MPC that day*) There will also be a potluck lunch afterwards, and you are welcome to bring a side or dessert to share but it is not required for you to attend. St. Andrews is at 3228 SW Sunset Blvd, Portland, OR 97239.

A **Maundy Thursday** service will be at Valley Presbyterian Church. There will be a simple soup supper at 6pm, and the service will start at 6:30pm. Valley is at 8060 SW Brentwood Street, Portland, OR 97225.

Good Friday will be here at MPC, and our service will start at 7:30pm.

All three churches will return home again for Easter services at their normal times. We hope everyone will enjoy sharing our Holy Week with our neighboring churches.

Sundays at MPC

Worship with us at 10:30am
in-person or via our Youtube Channel

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, April 6th
Communion

Sunday, April 13th
Palm Sunday
at St. Andrews Pres. ~ 10am

Thursday, April 17th
Maundy Thursday
at Valley Pres. ~ 6:30pm

Friday, April 18th
Good Friday
at MPC ~ 7:30pm

Sunday, April 20th
Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 27th



Upcoming Events

SW Hope Community Dinner
April 2 @ St. Luke's

Men's Fellowship Breakfasts
Fridays, April 4 & 18

Spring Fun Day
April 5

SW Hope 5K Walk/Run
April 12

Palm Sunday
April 13

Maundy Thursday
April 17

Good Friday
April 18

Easter
April 20

Alaska Auction
May 4

Sunday Parkways
May 18



SPRING FUN DAY

Don't forget that Spring Fun Day is **Saturday, April 5th!**

The baby goats will be here from 10am-11am, pancakes will be served from 10am-11am, and the egg hunt is at 11am.

We welcome volunteers! Talk to our elder for Fellowship and Outreach, Kevin Marshall if you would like to volunteer.

MULTNOMAH VILLAGE EARTH DAY CELEBRATION & SCAVENGER HUNT

On **April 26th** our neighbors in Multnomah Village will be celebrating Earth Day with special activities and live music. One of the activities will be a scavenger hunt that kids can pick up and complete with their families as they walk around the village stores. Our church will be creating that scavenger hunt to bring some fun to our community and fill a need the business association has.

FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Friday Men's Fellowship group meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. We will meet in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall at 8am on **April 4th & 18th** for a light breakfast of beverages, cereals, and pastries, along with a time of general fellowship and discussion. If you have any questions or would like to attend, please feel free to contact Dennis Zerba.

WOMEN'S PICKLEBALL GROUP

Inviting all women who are curious about the pickleball craze to come join the fun— No experience necessary! These sessions are about having fun in a low-stress environment. Come expecting to laugh & make mistakes while getting to know each other a little better.



Sign up at **<https://forms.gle/x67sMYSFiayVzjhH8>** to attend a Saturday session, and feel free to contact Fran Barth for more information.



MISSIONS MINISTRY

SW HOPE COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE March 5 - April 20

We have exceeded our goal, raising \$2200 in donations so far. There's still time to do more, so let's keep going!

Monetary donations are the most effective way to support the drive, since Neighborhood House can purchase food through their partnership with the Oregon Food Bank. You can donate online at www.nhpdx.org/sw-hope, (please email info@multpreschurch.org so we can count these in our total); checks should be made out to Neighborhood House with "SW Hope" written on the memo line; and cash can be put in an envelope marked SW Hope and placed in the offering basket. Any food donations can go in the red collection barrel in the fellowship area.

Community Meal with St. Luke Church Wednesday, April 2 at 5:45

All are welcome at St. Luke Lutheran Church (4595 SW California, Portland 97219) to share a meal together as a community. Suggested donation is \$7, and there will be a raffle prize give-away!

Dine Out to Donate Nights

Enjoy a night out at these restaurants, and 10% of your meal price will be donated to SW Hope. So get a group together and make a night of it!

April 7th:



April 14th:



5K Walk / Run

Saturday, April 12 at Oregon Episcopal School
Kids' Run @ 9:45am | Adult Run @ 10:15am

We will meet before the event and walk (or run) together for a time of fellowship and fresh air. Invite friends and neighbors. Sign-up (and see some familiar faces from last year!) at <https://runsignup.com/Race/OR/Portland/swhope5k> and join the "**Multnomah Pres God Squad**" group when you register. Although some participants will be running, many of us will be walking. Those who are walking more slowly, or are daunted by the length of the course, can opt out of the second lap. And new this year – bunny-themed costume contest! Prizes in both kids and adult categories. Hope to see you there!





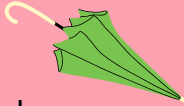
SESSION UPDATE

Session met on March 25 for its monthly meeting. At the meeting:

- Session approved the creation of a designated fund for the purpose of Open Door maintenance & equipment that will also receive donations related to pickleball.
- Tom Base was approved by Session as a back-up check signer.
- Session agreed to accept the donation of a Baldwin grand piano from friend of MPC/marimba ensemble member Karin Chesnutt that will be used in place of the current piano. MPC will keep the current piano for now. Thank you, Karin!
- Session renewed its covenants with Heather Hellman, CRE and Rev. Dr. Jennifer Ackerman for 2025 on the same terms as the previous year, except with a 3.7% increase in compensation already accounted for in the 2025 budget.
- Session approved two agreements related to the easement trail that passes over MPC. These agreements formalize the trail and articulate, in addition to other things, maintenance responsibilities for the organization SW Trails.
- Building & Grounds shared a document with Session discussing various safety and security measures and prospective policies. This document is still being edited and parts or all of it may be formalized at some point in the future.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

February was a close to break-even month, and through the first two months of 2025 we are "in the black", with income exceeding expenses by \$942.

	February	Year To Date
Income	\$ 22,785	\$ 47,365
Expenses	\$ 23,606	\$ 46,423
Net	- \$ 821	\$ 942

We also want to sincerely thank Roy Magnusson, who has served as elder and leader of the Finance & Administration committee for many years, and who stayed on the committee this past year to help ensure a smooth transition. Thank you, Roy, for your stewardship, leadership, and continued support of MPC!

Sincerely,
Your MPC F&A Committee
Chris Ulum (Elder), Darlene Higgenbottom (Treasurer), Tom Base,
Gayle Clopton, Dennis Zerba



PASTOR TERMINOLOGY 101

So what is a “called and installed” pastor? In the Presbyterian Church, the “installed” pastoral relationships are pastor, co-pastor, and associate pastor. A minister of the Word and Sacrament may be “installed” in a pastoral relationship for an indefinite period, or for a designated term determined by the presbytery in consultation with the congregation. This “indefinite” period and the contractual terms that go with it are the fundamental elements of an “installed” pastor.

The “called” aspect comes from the congregation. When a congregation determines that its strategy for mission under the Word so requires, the congregation may “call” for a pastor or additional pastors. Such additional pastors are called co-pastors or associate pastors, and the duties of each pastor and the relationship between the pastors of the congregation shall be determined by the session with the approval of the presbytery.

For over 100 years at Multnomah Presbyterian Church, the called & installed pastoral relationship made sense. However, in the 2020's things look much different. As noted last month, the typical tenure of pastoral service is currently only about 3 to 4 years. Because of this, many Presbyterian Churches have migrated to different pastoral arrangements from the traditional “called & installed” due to the churn and effort involved in mission studies, searches, declining membership, multiple searches, and a reduced Pastoral supply pool.

The Book of Order criteria for readiness to begin ordered ministry as a minister of the Word and Sacrament include:

- a.** a candidate’s wisdom and maturity of faith, leadership skills, compassionate spirit, honest repute, and sound judgment;
- b.** a transcript showing graduation, with satisfactory grades, at a regionally accredited college or university;
- c.** a transcript from an accredited theological institution showing study including Hebrew and Greek; and
- d.** examination materials, prepared and administered by a body created by the presbyteries.

The criteria for Pastoral leadership are comparable for temporary leadership as well as called & installed pastors. Having the qualifications is independent of “calls” and “installing”. Because of this, Presbyterian Churches are now working within the range of pastoral titles (designated, temporary, Commissioned Ruling Elder) to establish relationships that work for today’s congregations and pastoral marketplace. For example, designated supply and CRE can be three-year contracts, which can be renewed (rather than “indefinite” installation). These more flexible approaches adapt to a new way of looking at stability.

This is where the Session of Multnomah Presbyterian Church is today. We are exploring, evaluating, and patiently experiencing where the God’s wind is leading us, and adapting to a world where an installed pastor is unlikely to stay 20-30 years.

Please feel free to reach out to any Elder, Deacon, Jennifer or Heather if you have any questions. Next month we will share what the Bible provides as guidance for church leadership.



April Birthdays

- 1 John England
Jennifer Gassaway
- 3 Robyn Biehler
- 4 Ray McKean
- 6 Thomas Base
- 7 Jennifer Ackerman
- 13 Barb Jones
- 16 April Bell
- 17 Gina Hermanson
- 18 Caroline Brandt
- 20 Hazel Kindrick
- 24 Derek Gannett
- 25 Steven Goodfellow
- 27 Evelyn Prutsman
- 28 Allen Pinero
- 29 Tom Jones
Lois Oberdorf

DEACON NEWS FOR YOU

The Deacons are fortunate to have a fund available to help members and non-members who may have financial needs. For quite a few years, Libby Agosti vetted the people from outside the congregation who called for help. She would spend time talking with each person, finding out their needs, living and job situation, etc. before passing it on to the Deacon committee. Libby is retiring from this role, and the Deacons would like to thank her for all the time and energy she put into this job. She did it with compassion and helped those in need keep their dignity intact. Janet Lowrey will be taking over the vetting process, and we are truly appreciative. We're also very appreciative of everyone who donates to the Deacon fund so that MPC can continue to help those in need.

*"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will repay him for his deed."*

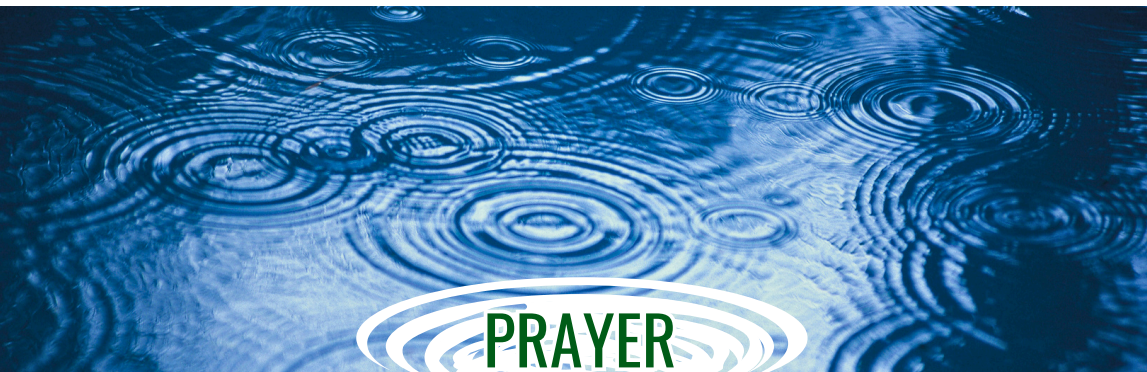
Proverbs 19:17



*Happy Easter
from your Deacons*



**MPC will host a memorial service for John Prutsman
this Saturday, March 29th at 2pm**



You're invited to call or email the church with any prayer requests (joys, concerns, and updates) you have, and they will be forwarded on to the Prayer Team who is continuing to meet via Zoom each Tuesday evening.

A PRAYER FOR LENT

Please join us in praying this prayer throughout our season of Lent. May it be our daily prayer that we pray together, for one another and our community:

God of life and provision, we seek you this Lenten season, looking for your joy and provision in these in between spaces of doubt and grief. As we come together around the SW Hope food drive, please knit our community of creative and well-meaning people, businesses, schools, churches, community groups, and artists together in such a way that we can continue to provide food to those in our immediate community who need it, despite the cutbacks in federal funds. Amen.

MINISTERING TO EACH OTHER

Our church family includes several "homebound" individuals – those who now have temporary or permanent limitations reducing their involvement in the church. When our homebound congregants are unable to come to church, we can take the church to them through prayers, visits, rides to church, and letters. Please inform the deacons as you become aware of someone who is homebound.

Blessings From Within Our Church

Praise to our current congregation for taking the time to pray and care for each other.

Praise to all the participants in SW Hope. MPC has hit \$2,000 in donations in just 3 short weeks - the first time we've raised this amount so early!

Praise for the success of Dove's Spring Luncheons, and for the volunteers who helped make them possible.

If you would like to share your blessings, please send them to Barb Jones, or your own Deacon.



YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP TIMES

High School

Wednesdays
7:00-9:00pm

Middle School

Wednesdays
6:30-8:00pm

GOOD NEWS TUES (Grades 2-5)

Tuesday, April 15th 6:00-7:30pm
Join us for dinner, games, and a lesson about
Jesus's great love for us.

ALASKA ADVENTURE AUCTION

May 4th is our fundraiser for our annual Alaska Trip. This trip is an important part of our ministry both here in Portland and the ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Skagway. Our team of youth and adults plan logistics, create curriculum and events, and go for 10 days to serve in Skagway providing day camp for kids in the mornings (VBS) and youth group events each evening. For our Portland students this provides a huge opportunity to learn valuable organization, communication, and teaching skills, further learn independent living skills, and explore their faith while surrounded by the wonders of God's creation. Meanwhile, our Skagway kids and youth get a rare opportunity to experience VBS and youth groups during a time when the adults of the town are busy earning their living for the year. The town graciously welcomes us every year because they value what we bring to their community. First Presbyterian Church of Skagway values the work we do and the boost we bring to their community so much that they involve us in the remodeling plans of their building to make sure that any modifications they make will not interfere with our ability to do our work there.

This ministry continues to be a valuable experience for both communities. It is not without expense, though, and this year recent government changes have affected the price of travel through Canada (which still remains the most efficient and cost effective way to get to Skagway). We will be fundraising again for the trip with our Auction and Lunch on May 4th. We would love to have any donations of goods, services, including things like gift cards, flower arrangements, plants, arts, crafts, baked goods, and vacation home/cabin stays. This is our only fundraiser for the trip each year, and we are always amazed at the generosity of our MPC community. If you have anything you would like to donate to the auction or would like a donation letter to take to a business, please contact Heather. We look forward to seeing everyone on the 4th - more details about the lunch and auction will be in your bulletins, eblast, and on social media.



DOVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Dove had a quick and amazing March. We learned about Lent and are happily counting down the days until Easter, learning more about Jesus along the way. We also learned about different instruments, in hopes of inspiring the kids to someday play an instrument. A special thank you to Ray McKean for sharing the organ and accordion with the kids. Their favorite part was seeing how far Ray could stretch the accordion!



We finished the month with the Spring Luncheons...this was the first luncheon since 2019 for the Pre I kids! Both classes did a great job singing songs for their parents, followed by lunch. A giant **THANK YOU** to Mariah Jones for picking up the pizzas for the luncheons, to Clay Morgan, Dave Tomastik, Val Hellman, and Dick Eyberg for volunteering to serve lunch and clean up both days, and to Kathy McCourt for helping the Pre I class. We could not have the luncheons without these amazing volunteers.

Dove also needs to thank Clay Morgan, Rick Aberle, and Kinton Hutchinson for spending a day power-washing the playground. It was in need of some cleaning and care. The preschool is really grateful for the time and energy they spent doing this. It makes a big difference. Thank you!



Dove is still accepting registrations for Fall 2025. The Pre II class (4-year-olds) has one opening available, and there are still openings in the Pre I class (3-year-olds). If you have family, friends, or neighbors looking for a preschool, please share Dove's contact information: www.dovepreschool.com or dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com.



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Greetings MPC Family - Here's what we've been up to recently:

- The entire B&G Team met at Old Market Pub for a luncheon to bid farewell to Karen Black and celebrate her years of service.



- The Astragal (aka: a piece of metal) was installed on the downstairs double doors. The section of metal adds to the security of these doors. (Picture left: note the gray metal down the middle of the doors)
- All Emergency Exit signs and lights were tested & inspected.
- Two back up batteries were replaced, and the lighting fixture over the main fireside entry was replaced.
- The main entry doors were adjusted, such that all are not sticking and all close completely now.
- The SW Trails Easement Document was finalized, presented to and reviewed by Session at the March meeting.
- The MPC Security Document is in the process of being reviewed by B&G, Deacons, and Fellowship Committees, and items within the document will be edited as needed before being presented to the Session for final review and approval.
- B&G is also working on maps and signage to be posted in the building that shows exit routes, First Aid Kits, and AED device locations.
- Traffic cones were placed in two areas on the property, to assist in preventing further property damage.





SW PORTLAND SUNDAY PARKWAYS

The Parks and Recreation event Sunday Parkways, which encourages the whole community to come out and walk and bike the neighborhood streets together, is back on **May 18th**. For the past two years we have manned two neighboring intersections on the route. At those intersections we help people safely navigate sharp turns, redirect cars that need to get in and out of the neighborhood despite road closures, and we have provided a fun festival atmosphere. The event coordinators love MPC's contribution so much that we have been asked to do it all again this year. We of course said yes, to the delight of the event staff. We love the opportunity to meet and serve our neighbors!

More details will be available in the coming weeks, but if you would like to volunteer for Sunday, May 18 and want more information now, contact Kevin Marshall, our Fellowship & Outreach Elder.



CAN WE OPEN THE OPEN DOOR TO ALL OUR NEIGHBORS?

The Open Door has been an open welcoming place for youth for decades, and now it is also open to pickleball players. Amazing moments of grace and care happen in that building everyday as people experience the love of Jesus while they have fun. People find rest there, play, community, and so much more. We get to watch people encounter Jesus's love through this amazing resource of fun we have as a church.

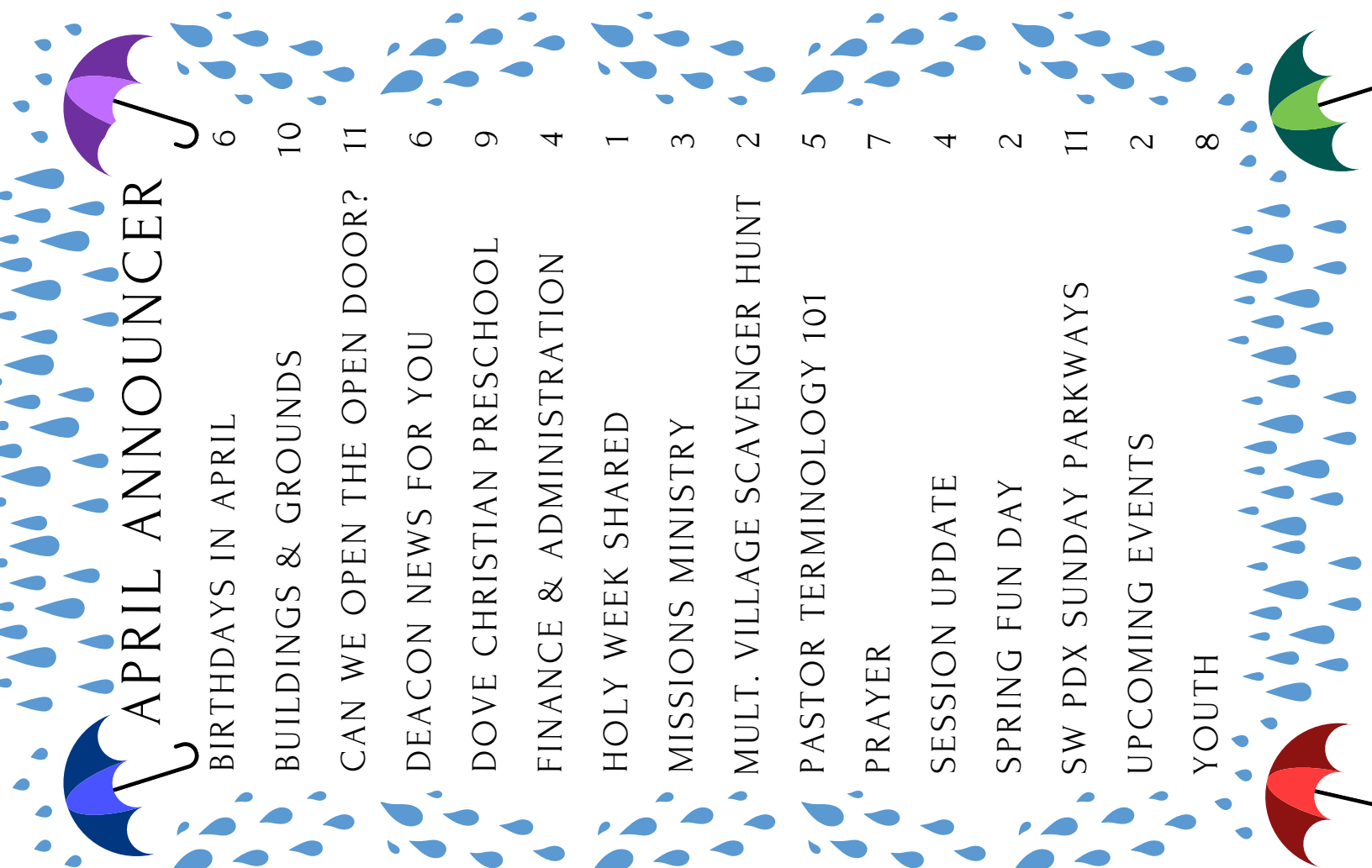
Recently we have begun thinking about whether it could be a place where our houseless neighbors could also find community, care, grace, and recreation - things they desperately need. We have talked to local organizations Street Roots and SW Outreach about this idea and how we might implement it in a way that is safe, respectful, and serves our homeless neighbors well. Both organizations have provided us with action steps and resources, as well as a promise of ongoing support. The proposal is for one Wednesday afternoon a month, which coordinates with another service nearby so our neighbors don't have to find additional transportation to come.

In order to do this, we'll need a team of volunteers that are willing to be present for this ministry. We need people willing to play board games, pickleball, basketball, or just sit and talk over a cup of tea. We are looking into the recommended training for de-escalation and other safety elements to help us be safe and well equipped to serve. If you are interested in participating in this training and being a volunteer once a month, please contact Heather. We have a great opportunity to share the wealth of fun and love we experience at the Open Door with neighbors that very, very rarely get the opportunity for safe, healthy recreation, but we can't do that without you.

Return Service Requested
Dated Material
Please Do Not Delay



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
LOVED BY CHRIST, WE LOVE. SERVED BY CHRIST, WE SERVE.
INVITED BY CHRIST, WE GO, INVITING OTHERS TO HIM.



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